

**HCR 4433 - H AMD 1288**

By Representative Padden

On page 1, line 1, after "WHEREAS," strike the remainder of the resolution and insert the following:

"One of the most fundamental responsibilities government owes its citizens is to maintain public safety, and one of the highest priorities of government is to protect persons and their property by adequately punishing and restraining those who cause them harm; and

WHEREAS, The public is questioning why convicted, incarcerated criminals should be granted good-time credits and early release and is demanding that offenders be required to serve the full terms of their original sentences; and

WHEREAS, The people of Washington state and particularly those citizens who have been victims of crime have a right to expect their government will ensure that individuals convicted of serious, violent crimes are removed from the community, and that incarcerated criminals serve their full sentences as originally imposed; and

WHEREAS, There is no way to shorten the original sentences imposed on victims by criminals that resulted in offenders becoming prison inmates in the first place; and

WHEREAS, Eliminating good-time credits and early release of convicted, incarcerated criminals would better ensure that the rights of victims are maintained and would better assist government in meeting its responsibility and priority of maintaining public safety and protecting its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Those who commit crimes should be appropriately punished in order that they learn personal responsibility, self-control, respect for the law, an understanding of the pain they have caused their victims, and an appreciation of the freedoms and

1 many legitimate opportunities available outside correctional and  
2 detention facilities; and

3 WHEREAS, Eliminating good-time credits and early release of  
4 convicted, incarcerated criminals would better ensure offenders  
5 know that their punishment is certain and that they will be held  
6 accountable for their acts; and

7 WHEREAS, Programs and activities available to inmates in  
8 correctional and detention facilities should reflect positive  
9 character traits, practical qualities, and constructive values that  
10 contribute to the betterment of society, promote good citizenship,  
11 and prepare inmates to lead disciplined, productive, and law-  
12 abiding lives upon their release; and

13 WHEREAS, Eliminating good-time credits and early release of  
14 convicted, incarcerated criminals would better ensure that inmates  
15 are adequately prepared to re-enter society; and

16 WHEREAS, The expense of keeping violent criminals in secure  
17 confinement is substantially less significant than the expense of  
18 letting violent criminals back on the streets, and the economic,  
19 social and personal costs of crime to victims far outweigh the  
20 costs of apprehending, prosecuting, and incarcerating for the full  
21 terms of their original sentences those who commit serious, violent  
22 crimes; and

23 WHEREAS, The costs of incarceration are higher in Washington  
24 state than the national average which suggests that Washington can  
25 and should find ways to reduce its average cost of incarceration;  
26 and

27 WHEREAS, Funds saved through cost-cutting measures, such as  
28 allowing privatization and reducing restraints on competitive  
29 bidding for the design, construction and operation of correctional  
30 and detention facilities, programs, and services, would help meet  
31 state and local criminal justice funding needs and the additional  
32 costs resulting from the elimination of good-time credits and early  
33 release;

1           WHEREAS, The policies of granting good-time credits and early  
2 release are unfair to those who were the victims of such prisoners  
3 and to the victims of future crimes committed by offenders on early  
4 release; and

5           WHEREAS, It is time that government began listening to what  
6 the law-abiding citizens of Washington state are demanding rather  
7 than what convicted felons would like;

8           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the House of  
9 Representatives of the state of Washington, the Senate concurring,  
10 That a Legislative Task Force on Truth in Sentencing be established  
11 to: (1) Review the current statutes, regulations, and  
12 administrative policies under which the Department of Corrections  
13 grants good-time credits and early release and propose their  
14 demise; (2) study the effect that early release programs have had  
15 on victims of felons who are out on early release; (3) recommend  
16 alternatives to the Department of Corrections' use of good-time  
17 credits, early release, and other incentives for controlling inmate  
18 behavior such as allowing for an increase in sentences up to 50%  
19 over the given sentence for bad behavior; and (4) estimate the  
20 fiscal impact of any recommended modifications or alternatives,  
21 including societal cost savings from crimes that are not committed  
22 because felons are in prison, including the cost savings of  
23 allowing privatization and reducing restraints on competitive  
24 bidding for the design, construction and operation of correctional  
25 and detention facilities, programs, and services, and other  
26 innovative cost-cutting measures, to off-set the costs of  
27 eliminating early release for convicted, incarcerated criminals;  
28 and

29           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall consist of  
30 the following ten voting members:

31           (1) Five members from the Senate Committee on Law and Justice,  
32 one of whom shall be the committee chair, two of whom shall be  
33 additional members from the majority party, and two of whom shall

1 be members from the minority party, to be appointed by each of the  
2 two largest caucuses in the Senate respectively; and

3 (2) Five members from the House of Representatives Committee  
4 on Corrections, one of whom shall be the committee chair, two of  
5 whom shall be additional members from the majority party, and two  
6 of whom shall be members from the minority party, to be appointed  
7 by each of the two largest caucuses in the House of Representatives  
8 respectively; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a representative from the  
10 Department of Corrections shall act as a liaison and nonvoting  
11 member of the task force; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a representative from a crime  
13 victims group shall act as a liaison and nonvoting member of the  
14 task force; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall be cochaired  
16 by the chair of the House of Representatives Committee on  
17 Corrections and the chair of the Senate Committee on Law and  
18 Justice, or their designees; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall consult with  
20 members of the public and private sectors or ask such persons to  
21 form an advisory committee; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall use  
23 legislative staff and facilities. All expenses of the task force,  
24 including travel, shall be paid jointly by the Senate and the House  
25 of Representatives; and

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall report its  
27 findings and recommendations to eliminate the use of good-time  
28 credits and early release to the legislature by December 31, 1994;  
29 and

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall expire  
31 December 31, 1994."

EFFECT: Changes the task force from Legislative Task Force on Good-Time Credits to Legislative Task Force on Truth in Sentencing and charges them with reporting to the legislature findings and recommendations regarding elimination of good-time credits and early release.

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